



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 7, 2003, 1:00 p.m.
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CWP WA-CW2703

Spring Crops Exhibit Stress Due to Dry Conditions Potatoes Were Growing Well

Field Crops

Producers across the state continued to express concern over the continued lack of rain. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying Canada thistle in plantations. Corn and potatoes were growing well in Snohomish and Northern King Counties. The first cutting of timothy hay was being wrapped up in Kittitas County. Spring grain growth in Klickitat County was so poor that some producers have turned livestock out to graze. In the Palouse, winter wheat continued to look good, while spring crops were stressed and continued to lose yield potential from dry conditions.

Livestock

Dairy producers were harvesting a second cutting of green chop. Non-irrigated pastures were drying up. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 11% poor, 43% fair, and 44% good. Oyster growers completed seed setting operations and were treating beds for burrowing shrimp.

Fruits and Vegetables

Sweet corn growers kept busy trying to keep fields irrigated. Raspberry harvest was in full swing with good yields. Cranberry farmers continued weed and fireworm control efforts. Strawberry harvest was nearly complete. Blueberry growers continued to forecast a lighter than usual crop with harvest to begin in about a week. In the central region, cherry harvest moved to later areas, apricots were being picked, onions were being harvested, and growers reported excellent set in grapes. Hot, dry conditions in the Yakima Valley contributed to numerous brush fires that have threatened or damaged perimeter trees in orchards.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.9
Last Week	6.9

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	23	31	46	0
Subsoil	5	33	62	0
Irrigation Water	0	5	95	0
Hay & Roughage	1	2	90	7

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	99	89	96	92
Winter Wheat Harvested	1	0	1	1
Barley Headed	98	80	93	93
Potatoes Harvested	3	1	4	2
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	40	10	10	48
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	98	96	100	99
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	58	35	34	52

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	26	48	20
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	13	81	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	3	10	43	34	10
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	12	88	0
Barley Dryland	2	10	32	42	14
Barley Irrigated	0	0	5	95	0
Potatoes	0	0	6	62	32
Corn	0	0	2	98	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	2	49	49

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Ag producers continued to express concern over the continued lack of rain. Sweet corn growers were kept busy just trying to keep fields irrigated. Christmas tree growers were spot spraying Canada thistle in plantations. Direct market vegetable producers continued cultivating pumpkin fields for weed control. The rural landscape, throughout the county, continued to be tinder dry, resulting in fire danger. Dairy producers were harvesting a second cutting of green chop.

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Dry weather continued throughout the week. Cooler weather and mist reduced plant stress; however, the region would really benefit from a soaking rain.

Jefferson: Conditions were dry. Some seeds did not sprout this year. Grasses were very dry. Farmers were not putting in corn this year due to drought conditions. No fires were reported so far.

Kitsap: Crop conditions were good with some irrigation required. Raspberry harvest was in full swing with quantities being sold at local Farmers Markets.

Pacific: Cooler conditions were welcomed by producers, with light rainfall improving pasture conditions. Raspberry harvest underway with good yields. Cranberry farmers continued weed and fireworm control efforts, and Christmas tree growers continued weed control. Oyster growers completed seed setting operations and were treating beds for burrowing shrimp.

Pierce/South King: Crops, pastures and fields looked good. There were no unusual weather situations to report.

Snohomish/North King: There was no appreciable rainfall. Non-irrigated pastures were drying out. Hay making and grass harvest continued. Raspberries were ripe. Corn and potatoes were growing well.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Warm, dry days prevailed for most of the week. Rain was needed everywhere for continued growth of non-irrigated crops. Corn was showing wonderful growth. Strawberry harvest was nearly complete. Raspberry harvest was in full swing. Grass harvest continued as weather permitted. Rivers have had much lower flows than normal for this early in the summer.

Thurston: Dry conditions continued to prevail throughout the county. Christmas tree growers began top working Noble fir. Turfgrass growers planted and netted new fields. Blueberry growers continued to forecast a lighter than usual crop with harvest slated to begin in about a week. Strawberry harvest peaked and began to wind down. Livestock growers began harvesting a second crop of forage. Ag producers continued to express concern over the unusually dry conditions so early in the summer.

Whatcom: Strawberry harvest was nearly finished. Raspberry harvest began. A couple of days of rain helped crops. Producers continued to use irrigation to supplement rainfall. Potatoes were blooming.

Central

Benton: Dry weather continued. The cherry harvest moved to later areas. Apricots were being picked, and onions were being harvested. Growers were reporting excellent set in grapes.

Benton (2nd Report): Cherry harvest began in the southwestern part of the county, with yields being about average. The hot, dry conditions continued. Grass harvest continued.

Franklin: Warm temperatures continued throughout the week. Cherry harvest continued. Alfalfa fields were being cut for the second time. Most crops were making good growth.

Kittitas: The first cutting of timothy hay was being wrapped up, with normal yields expected. Sweet corn plantings ended, with cultivation beginning. The second cutting of alfalfa will begin soon. Range and pasture conditions continued to be in good to fair condition.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The first cutting of timothy hay was nearly (90%) complete.

Klickitat: Spring grain growth was so poor that some producers have turned livestock out to graze. Hay production was exceptional.

Yakima: Harvest of apricots and the later maturing cherry varieties continued under dry and pleasantly hot conditions. Unfortunately, these hot, dry conditions contributed to numerous brush fires that have threatened or damaged perimeter trees in orchards.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 6 degrees below normal to 6 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Stevens: Warm weather and clear skies the past week enabled hay producers to finish putting up most of the first cutting. Pastures were holding up well. Grain crops were headed out in most places and were beginning to turn.

Walla Walla: Rain is needed! Harvest was fast approaching. Winter wheat looked good. However, spring crops showed signs of stress from continued heat and poor moisture.

Whitman: Spring crops continued to lose yield potential as each day passes without rain. However, winter wheat stands looked good, with average or better yield expectations. Pastures were dry and grazing conditions were generally fair to poor.

Whitman (2nd Report): Another hot week without rain. Crops were still holding up remarkably well in the absence of precipitation. Spring crops were showing signs of stress. Winter wheat was turning from green to golden. Harvest will begin shortly in earlier areas of the county.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

July 7, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	48	73	60	-2	71	-6	4	-10	0.44	0.09	3	25.41	-8.33	75	142
Everett	50	73	61	-1	79	-5	11	-10	0.02	-0.33	1	24.45	-9.68	72	141
Hoquiam	48	67	58	-2	57	-9	2	-5	0.09	-0.26	1	60.24	-5.20	92	155
Kelso	45	75	61	-2	81	-6	12	-11	0.02	-0.29	1	23.57	-20.75	53	102
Olympia	38	78	60	-2	74	-6	11	-6	0.05	-0.20	1	36.73	-11.96	75	145
Sea-Tac	50	76	63	-2	93	-4	23	-7	0.01	-0.23	1	31.21	-4.28	88	138
Shelton	44	76	62	-3	82	-12	15	-13	0.06	-0.22	1	54.30	-8.63	86	142
Tacoma	41	77	62	-2	84	-10	18	-10	0.00	-0.27	0	26.43	-11.88	69	127
Vancouver	47	79	65	2	107	13	37	9	0.00	-0.24	0	34.22	-5.24	87	136
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	46	85	66	-1	113	-2	43	-5	0.00	-0.07	0	7.90	-0.45	95	80
Omak	44	88	69	4	136	27	66	21	0.00	-0.19	0	11.82	-1.64	88	61
Stampede Pass	38	66	51	-2	13	-17	0	0	0.00	-0.44	0	58.53	-19.44	75	144
Wenatchee	51	87	70	-2	143	-7	73	-7	0.00	-0.07	0	8.83	1.13	115	72
Yakima AP	42	88	66	-3	118	-11	48	-12	0.00	-0.07	0	7.98	0.51	107	58
NORTHEAST															
Colville	37	90	67	3	120	16	51	11	0.00	-0.23	0	17.33	-2.11	89	73
Deer Park	35	82	61	-7	75	-41	14	-37	0.00	-0.21	0	20.21	3.11	118	95
Spokane AP	46	83	65	-2	108	-8	38	-13	0.00	-0.20	0	14.90	-0.37	98	100
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	48	87	70	-4	141	-19	71	-20	0.00	-0.09	0	7.56	0.85	113	54
Moses Lake	45	88	68	-5	131	-29	61	-30	0.00	-0.09	0	7.87	1.16	117	72
Quincy	51	90	69	-1	132	-4	62	-5	0.00	-0.07	0	6.13	-1.13	84	51
Ritzville	42	95	65	-3	106	-13	37	-15	0.00	-0.14	0	11.14	0.54	105	82
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	55	89	71	-5	151	-28	81	-28	0.00	-0.07	0	8.00	1.93	132	67
Pasco	47	91	70	-4	139	-22	69	-23	0.00	-0.07	0	7.08	0.07	101	71
Pullman	39	80	61	-3	76	-18	12	-20	0.00	-0.23	0	9.62	-10.02	49	87
Whitman Miss.	41	92	67	-3	124	-12	55	-12	0.00	-0.14	0	14.32	1.54	112	114
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	41	93	65	-3	106	-14	39	-13	0.00	-0.29	0	18.23	-5.73	76	100
Lewiston ID	54	101	72	0	152	-1	82	-2	0.00	-0.20	0	12.36	1.21	111	109

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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